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Directorate leads money laundering study

by Francis L. Crumb, Information Directorate

ROME, N.Y. — The Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate is serving as technical agent for a new information technology initiative sponsored by the Department of Defense Counterdrug Technology Development Program office.

The directorate has also assumed a dual role as information technology expert for a "tiger team," which focuses specifically on the current state of money laundering investigative technologies and possible improvements to better identify drug-related financial crimes.

The tiger team also includes a criminal analyst, a money laundering investigator, a computer analytic expert and a technical advisor for money laundering prosecutions from the Arizona Attorney General's office. The team is responsible for assessing and validating the "state-of-the-art" in money laundering investigative technologies and identifying opportunities for technology insertion and development. Directorate personnel are leading team visits to two major money-laundering task forces: Miami and New York/New Jersey.

"We have been working with the Counterdrug Technology Program office for a number of years, developing information technologies for counterdrug purposes," said Walter V. Gadz Jr., program manager in the directorate's Information and Intelligence Exploitation Division.

"Last fall, we began a tiger team composed of 8 to 10 individuals with a role of traveling to various locations across the country to talk with money laundering experts," Gadz said. "We are trying to find out what methods these experts currently use to do their investigations, identifying technology gaps in how they analyze these types of crimes and determining what information technology might enhance their efforts."

The team's fact-finding phase will culminate in October with a report to the DOD program office that includes a prioritized list of potential research efforts to fill existing technology gaps.

"We have already identified several of these deficiencies and hope to form partnerships with appropriate organizations to develop technology demonstrations that can be applied to money laundering," Gadz said. "The next step will be to coordinate with the appropriate agencies regarding the prioritization of the projects, and to obtain funding for the selected technology situations. @